

- All slurry, soiled water, effluents, farmyard manure, etc., produced in a building or a yard shall be collected & held in a manner that prevents run-off or seepage, directly or indirectly, to ground waters or surface waters
- Take all reasonable steps to minimise soiled water produced in a farmyard
- Keeping 'dirty' water to a minimum reduces cost of storage and spreading
- Ensure that rainwater & water flowing from higher ground is diverted without contamination to a clean water outfall & is not allowed to enter soiled yards.

#### Potential Polluting Effects of Agriculture on water Quality.

The main pollution potential of farm wastes arises from their VERY high concentration of microbial pathogens (Cryptosporidium Bacteria, and Viruses) biodegradable organic matter(OM) and nutrients. OM in water leads to low oxygen levels necessary for fish etc and an increase in enrichment due to Phosphorous and Nitrogen which chokes waterways.

	<i>Mg/l</i>		
Characteristics	BOD	N	P
Silage effluent	65,000	2,700	560
Poultry slurry	35,000	14,000	5,500
Pig slurry	25,000	4,000	1,400
Cattle slurry	17,000	4,000	700
Soiled water	1,500	300	30
Untreated sewage	400	55	15
<b>Clean water</b>	<b>&lt;4</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>	<b>0.02</b>

#### REMEMBER - PROTECT OUR WATER



For further information, See:

[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

[www.wfdireland.ie](http://www.wfdireland.ie)

or contact

**Roscommon County Council**

**Phone: 090 6632500**

**Visit us on: [www.roscommoncoco.ie](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie)**

**Opening Hours: Mon to Friday**

**9.30am-5.30pm (5.15 on Friday)**

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## Positive Actions for Protecting Water Quality against Agricultural Pollution



## 1. Protect your Water courses

- Restrict livestock access to rivers and streams
- Maintain a buffer strip around ditches and streams to protect the watercourse & improve water
- Locate drinking troughs and feeding rings away from watercourses
- Prevent dung and urine directly entering the watercourse.



## 2. Slurry Management

- Always check weather conditions before spreading
- Ensure tanks have sufficient storage capacity.

### Times for Spreading

- Slurry & effluent shall not be applied to land during the period 15<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> January.

### Conditions for Spreading

- Slurry, farmyard manure(FYM), or organic fertiliser shall not be spread within; 200m of a large water



supply source, 100m of a smaller water supply source, 25m from any other water supply source, 20m of a lake, 5m of an open drain, stream or river.

- For karst features (swallow holes, collapsed features) the set back distance for the application of slurry FYM and organic fertiliser is 15m
- Fertiliser, slurry, farmyard manure, etc. shall not be spread when; the land is waterlogged, the land is flooded or likely to flood, the land is snow covered or frozen, heavy rain is forecast within 48 hours
- Slurry shall not be spread; using an upward facing splash plate, using a rain-gun or sludge irrigator mounted on a slurry tanker.

### Storage

- Storage facilities shall be maintained in good condition
- A minimum of 18 weeks storage capacity shall be provided for slurry & any soiled water which mixes with & is stored with slurry
- Farmyard Manure shall not be stored in a field during the period 1<sup>st</sup> November to 15<sup>th</sup> January.

## 3. Fertiliser

- Estimate the nutrient content of slurry and manure; include their value in your estimate of fertiliser requirements
- Test soil nutrient levels every 5 years
- Use rotational grazing and reseed with mixtures that contain clover – a natural source of nitrogen
- The amount of Nitrogen & Phosphorus which may be applied to promote the

growth of a crop shall not exceed that specified in the Regulations

- Chemical fertiliser shall not be applied within 1.5m of an open drain, stream, river or lake.

## 4. Yard Maintenance

### Benefits of Fencing Riverbanks

- Prevents land loss due to bank erosion
- Stops stock straying or loss during floods
- Reduces stock lameness, injury or waterborne disease

## 5. Water Maintenance.

Water management on the farmyard is essential in the prevention of water pollution



- Keep separate 'clean' and 'dirty' water tanks
- Maintain gutters, down pipes
- Repair leaking taps, overflowing water troughs
- Put a roof over collecting and feeding yards